



THE GRANGE NEWSLETTER

Elizabeth Chish

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Editor: Connie Masters

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A WORD FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

All Grange Volunteers deserve great praise for the manner in which they handled the events of the Grange Reopening and March Break. Our tranquil house has become a very active place and all Toronto seems thrilled to discover the City's best kept secret is now so accessible and so very enjoyable. It is now up to us to strike a balance between keeping the crowds moving yet still imparting as much information as possible.

The new volunteers had a difficult start and we really appreciate the way that you have all pitched in particularly those who have coped with the weekend crowds. Since so many of the Sunday volunteers are new it would be a great help if regular weekday volunteers would come on Sunday to give the new people a chance to listen to your interpretation. If you would please all check, each week, to see how many people are signed up for the weekend, we need at least seven volunteers to be able to handle the volume of visitors. We have had 19,499 visitors since January 24, and that is many more than we had all last year!

My congratulations at how well you are all managing without the continuous presence of Protection Services. Just keep it up! Be firm that strollers are parked under the stairs, that children don't run, that visitors don't put their bags down on the furniture or touch. Please learn where the barriers are kept and close off the upstairs or shut the door to below stairs, if you are short staffed or must take a break and there isn't anyone to replace you. Remember, Protection Services are available to handle any situation that you cannot cope with. Dial 271 to reach them, or if it is an emergency, 238.

I hope that all of you will take advantage of the workshops that Peter Stokes is giving in April. Saturday, 17 (note date change), Tuesday, 20, and Tuesday, 27. There is space for 25 people each time. Please come armed with your questions!

The Annual Meeting of The Grange Volunteer Committee will be on Monday, May 3, 1993 at 6:00 pm., in the Gallery School with supper in the ~~Atium~~ ^{CAFE} afterwards. Our numbers - 105 Grange Volunteers - mean that we cannot accommodate everyone in the Music Room. Please plan to attend and listen to the reports from your Executive.

It is sad to report that Joyce Davenall Turner, the Executive Director of the Volunteer Committee, is taking early retirement after 19 years with the Volunteer Committee. She has always been a very supportive voice for the Volunteers and we will all feel her departure keenly. Another departure is that of Jane Aitken, Chair of The Grange Council and a past Chair of The Grange Volunteer Committee. Jane has such a depth of knowledge of all the workings of the house that I feel the house will grieve for her absence. She has done a superb job in taking care of the fabric of the house which is the responsibility of The Grange Council. I am delighted to tell you that Marilyn Litvak, who wrote The Grange Booklet, is to replace Jane, and we are indeed fortunate to have such a clear thinking, articulate and understanding person.

I look forward to seeing you at the trainings and the Annual Meeting.

Diana Weatherall

NEW FACES AT THE GRANGE

Tuesday

Jacqueline Stickley
Enid Martin

Wednesday

Loraine Warren
Lori Bennett
Marjorie Gilligan
Beatrice Calendino
Kay Kirker
Sally Lowrey

Wednesday Eve

Kathryn Boncza
Penny Carter

Thursday

John Belle
Marcia Hawken
Signe Kaltenieks
June O'Brian
Barbara Thamer

Friday

Sandra Mah

Friday Eve

Sandra Choi
Twara Davila
Linda Hsiao
Chris Klisouras
Erika Luhur
Elizabeth MacDonald
Betty Shin
Johan Wadsten
Pauline Pavlovich

Saturday

Winifred Anderson
Wai Lau

Sunday

Alexandra Hawkes
Margaret Peel
Elvira Putrus
Heli Sterling

We wish all these new, enthusiastic Grangers a long and happy association with the house. It is wonderful to have Edna Rigby as the new Sunday shift captain.

We are sorry to say good-bye to: Alison Knauff, Thursday. Maradele and Wayne Fleming, Sunday. They have all been with The Grange a long time and will be missed.

NEW VOLUNTEER ID BADGES will be issued towards the end of April. Everyone must go to the Protection Office to sign for a new badge and return the old one. For dates see the notice board in the basement.

CAUTION! CANDLES! CAUTION!

Some time ago your editor wrote on the need to observe GREAT CARE when candles are lit in the house. It seems that not all Grange volunteers got the message as The Grange Housekeeping Group is becoming increasingly distressed by the candle wax they are finding on surfaces all over the house. It is very difficult to remove.

ONCE AGAIN - DO NOT PLACE A LIGHTED CANDLE IN A DRAUGHT. If a flame is flickering continually PUT OUT THE CANDLE. If a flickering candle is left for any length of time it will GUTTER - once seen, never forgotten. It dissolves into a waxy blob all down the candlestick, and ultimately on to where it is resting.

NEVER BLOW OUT A CANDLE. Use the candle snuffer (there is one on each floor) - but with care. If the edge of the snuffer comes into contact with the melted wax there will be more unwanted drips.

A LIGHTED CANDLE SHOULD BE KEPT UNDER CONSTANT SURVEILLANCE - so don't light candles if insufficient number of volunteers in house.

On a dark and dreary winter afternoon or gloomy evening, lighted candles add a warm, lovely 19th century ambience to the house - but we can't have wax drippings defacing table linens and furniture - BE CAREFUL!

GENTLY, GENTLY or DON'T SLAM THAT SHUTTER!

The Grange may appear to be a sturdy survivor from 175 years ago, but it is really rather fragile and requires a lot of tender, loving care. Our Housekeeping Group reports that the shutters are being opened and closed with more enthusiasm than caution and are showing definite signs of stress.

PLEASE - open and close gently, don't let the iron bar swing, and don't entangle the curtains. Incidentally, your editor is convinced that at the time of The Grange restoration, the shutters in the Morning Room were installed upside down as the location of the knobs are beyond the reach of anyone under 6 ft.

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The following historical note from The Grange Newsletter of June, 1989, is being repeated as the question of The Grange carpeting is often raised by new volunteers.

WALL-TO-WALL CARPETING - AN ANACHRONISM IN THE GRANGE? NEVER

How many of us have had visitors look askance at the wall-to-wall carpeting in The Grange, and question its authenticity in an early 19th century house? Well, no need to shuffle our feet and mumble. In England, the practice of 'fitting a room' (the term wall-to-wall was not used) with a carpet was well-known in the homes of the wealthy by the early 1700's. We find Benjamin Franklin sending some carpeting from London to Philadelphia in 1758, and explaining in a letter to his wife that 'it has to be sew'd together, the edges being first fell'd down and are taken to make the figures meet exactly.' Another writer of the time remarked 'It is the custom almost universally to cover a room entirely.' It is understandable that the fashion would catch on quickly as the added warmth carpeting over bare floors gave to inadequately heated houses must have been considerable.

The first carpets brought to English Canada were imported from Britain where the carpet-making industry was flourishing by the end of the 18th century. Although solid colours were known, patterns - florals, geometrics, laurels - were the rule. The finishing touch was often a border in a contrasting pattern.

Fitted carpeting spread to less affluent homes with the invention of more efficient looms which allowed unskilled weavers to produce complex patterns. The invention of the power loom transformed the industry, and we read that "after 1850 practically every home had carpets from wall to wall."

Also, important for new volunteers - forbidden words for Grange Historic Interpreters.

Wall-to-wall carpeting or broadloom	- say fitted carpet
Master bedroom	- say best bedroom
Chesterfield	- say sofa
Drapes	- say curtains
Wheels (on furniture)	- say castors
Mirror	- say looking glass

ENRICHMENT & ENLIGHTENMENT FOR GRANGE VOLUNTEERS

Helvi Hunter, The Grange Training Chairman, has some very interesting "happenings" planned for us in the weeks ahead, and it is hoped that all Grangers will make every effort to attend:

Tuesday, April 13. 10:00 am. Kitchen training with Ruth Keene.
Present and new cooks only and
volunteers working in the basement.
Speak to your shift captain.

Saturday, April 17. 10:15 am. Peter John Stokes, The Grange's own
restoration architect, will tour the
house outside and inside. Be ready
with any questions you have about the
house.

For those unable to attend on this date, Mr. Stokes has kindly
agreed to repeat his tour on two other dates:

Tuesday, April 20 at 10:00 am. Tuesday, April 27 at 10:00 am.

With three dates to choose from it is expected that ALL Grange
volunteers will attend one of Mr. Stokes's presentations.

Monday, April 26. 10:00 am. A tour of Mackenzie House, Bond
Street.

THE GRANGE ANNUAL EXPEDITION - AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.

Around this time of the year, long-time Grangers begin to wait with
ill-concealed excitement for the announcement of the ANNUAL GRANGE
EXPEDITION. Like Chaucer's Canterbury pilgrims come spring we are
ready to set out a-journeying. This year Helvi Hunter has planned
a very different trip - a tour of historic Toronto by TTC
streetcar, and our guide will be none other than that indefatigable
chronicler of old Toronto, Mike Filey. The expedition will get
underway on Monday, June 14, at 11:00 am. Some details are still
to be worked out, such as cost and (very important on Grange tours)
refreshments, so watch the staff bulletin board for final
arrangements.

DRAMA AT THE GRANGE

Last year, one of the hits of the Alumnae Theatre's season was
"This Beggarly Wooden Country" in which four actresses portraying
Anna Jameson, Anne Langton, Catherine Parr Trail and Susanna Moodie
presented dramatic monologues from the ladies' writings. The
Grange has the opportunity to present this entertainment for two
performances in the Music Room on Friday, May 14 at 5:30 and 7:30
pm. Tickets are \$10 for members, \$12 for non-members. This is
a fund-raising event so it is hoped that it will be well-supported
by The Grange volunteers.

FLORENCE WATTS AND ELIZABETH CHISH AT THE 1992 "PAPER TRAIL EXHIBITION"

Elizabeth Chish reports that she and Florence Watts represented The Grange at the exhibition "Paper Trail" at Harbourfront with a demonstration of pin pricking that attracted a lot of interest. For their efforts they received an honorarium from the exhibition organizers which they have used to the benefit of The Grange. Reproduction 19th century tumblers were purchased for use in The Grange on those special occasions when cider is served to visitors, Christmas, Heritage Week, evening receptions. The tumblers are stored in the preparatory kitchen cupboard. Elizabeth and Florence had sufficient funds left over to also buy a 19th century reproduction tin slop pail and pitcher. The Grange was invited back for the 1993 "Paper Trail" exhibition, but unfortunately, no volunteers were available to staff a display.

Dick Watts, Florence's talented husband, has designed a very handsome light box for displaying pin pricking or slides. He also made The Grange event posters on the staff bulletin board. Many thanks to Dick for his work on behalf of The Grange.

GEORGIAN - "THE EXPRESSION OF A WEALTHY AND POLITE SOCIETY"

From time to time a visitor, usually from south of the border, will seem puzzled by the term "Georgian". For any Grange volunteer who may feel a little on shaky ground themselves when giving an explanation, the following note is offered, a few words on a subject to which entire books are devoted.

Georgian is a term covering several phases of architectural and decorative style that evolved during the reigns of the Hanoverian kings in England, George I, II, III, IV and William IV, that is from 1727-1837. These phases, which include Neo-Classicism and Regency, while retaining their own characteristics, have certain features in common - they were strongly influenced by the work of the great 16th century Italian architect, Andrea Palladio. In architecture, elegance was achieved through harmonic proportion and symmetry, rather than elaborate decoration.

Regency roughly coincides with the period from 1811-1820, when the Prince of Wales was acting for his father, George III, who suffered from periods of insanity, and his own reign as George IV from 1820-1830. It marks the culmination of the Georgian style and the transition to the Victorian era. The classical sense of proportion and balance that characterized Georgian architecture persisted during this period, and Roman and Greek models continued to be used, but much more decoration in the picturesque manner was introduced. Regency also saw the introduction of terraces, balconies, often decorated with delicate iron work, bow windows and bow fronted houses.

To get back to our American visitor, he or she will probably be more familiar with the term "Federal" which is used in the U.S. to describe architecture created from the Revolutionary War to about 1820.

This is an extremely abbreviated, condensed, compressed, bargain basement outline of what "Georgian" means. It was a time of unparalleled creativity and beauty when, it was said, TASTE was invented.

In elegant houses designed by William Kent, Colen Campbell, John Nash and Robert Adam, we see the Georgians moving in rooms with furnishings created by Chippendale, Hepplewhite and Sheraton, while Gainsborough or Reynolds is at work on their portraits, and in the gardens laid out by Humphrey Repton or Capability Brown, Constable is at his easel recording the view forever. This is the background from whence D'Arcy Boulton, Jr., came and this is what he attempted to recreate in the colonial wilderness when he built The Grange.

